The Newsletter of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

NCPTT NOTES

U.S. Department of the Interior

Summer 2006/Issue 46 • www.ncptt.nps.gov

MONUMENTAL LEGACY

NCPTT Training Initiative Brings National Attention to Conservation of Historic Cemetery Monuments

Shelley Sass, Cemetery Monument Conservation workshop instructor, demonstrates proper filling and patching methods. The Southwest regional CMC workshop will be held Sept. 26-28.

On September 26-28, NCPTT will hold its Southwest Regional Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop in Virginia City, Nev. The Catholic Section of the Silver Terrace Cemetery will be the site for this intensive hands-on experience that will feature the conservation of wooden grave markers. Partners in this effort include the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office and the Comstock Cemetery Foundation.

The Southwest workshop is the fourth CMC training event in as many years, owing to sustained demand from groups ranging from professional conservators to cemetery enthusiasts. In summer of 2001, NCPTT led an effort to document and conserve gravemarkers in Louisiana's American Cemetery, which is believed to be the oldest cemetery in the Louisiana Purchase. The project sparked the interest of the local public as well as preservation professionals across the country. Since then, NCPTT's National Cemetery Preservation Initiative has partnered with organizations across the country to develop training and technologies to save historic cemeteries.

Oklahoma Cemetery Basics participant Sherry Heim cleans biogrowth from a gravemarker.

The work in American Cemetery allowed conservators like former NCPTT staff member ElizaBeth Guin the opportunity to field test new ideas and basic techniques. The outcome of this work began as local lectures and spawned into testing new hands-on training methods. NCPTT continues its work in cemetery conservation by planning and implementing workshops, lectures, and research projects.

CMC Workshop

In 2003, NCPTT developed the Southern Regional Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop that focused solely on the conservation of cemetery monuments. The event drew more than 60 participants from around the country to the American Cemetery. The hands-on workshop included a seminar portion that featured lectures by experienced conservators about cemetery care.

The workshop began with the fundamental skills of condition assessments, documentation, monument setting, cleaning, lifting, and safety. Participants worked through the more complex issues of stone consolidation, adhesive and reinforced repairs. All of these skills were complimented by lectures on the deterioration methods of materials commonly found in cemeteries and the various ways to stabilize those materials.

Continued on page 6

Timberley Roane, associate professor of biology at the University of Colorado at Denver, collects bacteria from one of the artifacts provided by the Arizona State Museum.

ALL-NATURAL CLEANSER

Researcher Uses Bacteria to Safely Clean Toxic Metals from Native American Artifacts

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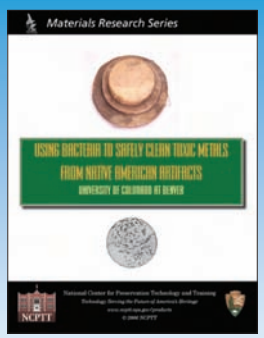


Decades of antiquated preservation methods have led to the contamination of American Indian artifacts with toxic metals, potentially damaging the artifacts while posing danger to the conservators working with them.

With a grant from NCPTT, Timberley Roane, associate professor of biology at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, has been researching a means to resolve an environmental quandary involving toxic substances and artifacts such as kachina dolls, pipes, pottery, blankets, mounted animals and ceremonial masks.

"Historically, artifacts might have been treated with a variety of different pesticides to preserve the objects from insects and microbial damage," Roane said. "Two of the most prevalent pesticides that we're most concerned with now are mercury and arsenic, as the toxicity of these metals to biological systems is under review."

Roane, a Lumbee tribe member, collaborated with a Navajo friend who works with the Environmental Protection Agency to conceptualize the use of bacteria as a possible means to extract mercury from these artifacts without damaging them. Due to the presence of mercury, for example, and the risk of dermal or inhalation exposure, some of these artifacts could not be put back into cultural use.

Roane is working with bacteria already living on the artifacts that will allow her to change mercury into a gaseous form that can then be disposed of properly. This builds on her past research that uses naturally occurring bacteria for environmental cleanup.

"With funding from the NCPTT, we've been able to isolate mercury-resistant bacteria capable of removing mercury from contaminated media," she said. "We are very excited by the prospect of being able to remove mercury from treated museum materials, in hopes of mitigating the toxicity of these materials for not only repatriation to tribal members but for anyone who comes in contact with them."

Traditional methods of removing toxic metals include chemicals, ultraviolet light and heat. These methods can damage materials, which led to Roane's desire to research less invasive methods to clean collections.

"You have to treat them gently and with respect, especially since some of these materials are considered living by their native peoples," she said. "New methods like those proposed by the grant procedures offer new hope."

Roane was granted access to Native American collections at the Arizona State Museum for her research. Dozens of samples have been taken and documented. After the bacteria are grown in the lab they are screened for their ability to turn mercury into a gaseous form. Those bacteria are then tested further.

While much is not known about contamination levels in native artifacts, Roane's research represents a promising step toward dealing with the contamination from the past while preserving these significant cultural artifacts for the future.

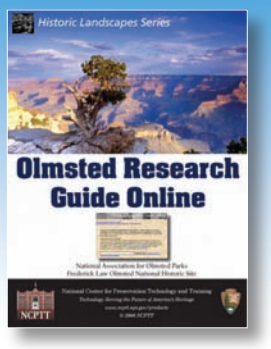
"The start to this project shows a lot of potential," she said. "We plan to continue our efforts in using bacteria to remove mercury from collections and hope to eventually develop an effective mitigation technology."

The Olmsted Research Guide Online allows portal access of records from the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

LANDSCAPES ONLINE

Online Searchable Database Provides Unprecedented Access to Records of Renowned Landscape Architect

Download This Research @ www.ncptt.nps.gov



Responding to growing demand for easy access to the records of legendary landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (NHS) have created a database that provides simultaneous search capability of Olmsted-related project records held at the Olmsted NHS and the Library of Congress. The Olmsted Research Guide Online (ORGO, www.rediscov.com/olmsted) was funded by a grant from NCPTT and more recent private donations.

According to Anthony Reed, an archivist at the Olmsted NHS in Brookline, Mass., portal access of these records is a major step forward for the wide range of individuals who research Olmsted's work and the work of his sons and successors.

"For the community of landscape historians, the opportunity to get information about so large and significant a body of work as the Olmsteds' is significant, saving on research trips by providing specific microfilm reel and frame information from the Library of Congress correspondence collections, which can then be used to request reels through interlibrary loan," Reed said. "For the library, archives, museum and Park Service communities, this project exemplifies how a bold, energetic public-private partnership can create a product that utilizes expertise, scholarship and resources that otherwise may not have operated together."

The project began when a group of interested individuals from NAOP and the Olmsted National Historic Site saw the potential to dovetail the ongoing conservation and cataloging work being done at the NHS with scholarship being produced by the Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted editorial project out of American University. With over 138,000 plans and drawings maintained at the NHS, and a significant collection of records in Washington D.C. donated by the Olmsted firm to the Library of Congress, research had always necessitated travel to the two locations.

Each organization brought complementary resources and experience to the project. NAOP offered extensive strategic, intellectual and administrative expertise, while the National Park Service provided a database structure, a management framework for the project and general oversight of the data itself. According to Reed, NCPTT was the logical partner given the project's electronic resource sharing potential.

"Using electronic means to access and preserve historic materials seemed perfectly on point for the aims of NCPTT projects," he said. "By giving more access to researchers, materials are used more heavily and advocate for the preservation of Olmstedian landscapes. By giving more detailed access about the documents, better decisions can be made earlier in the research process, requiring less handling of fragile materials."

Data collection and entry continue on handwritten inventories of plans and smaller Olmsted collections. Other text-based collections held at Olmsted NHS that are anticipated for entry include the firm's planting lists, plans inventory cards and the collection of correspondence (mostly post-dating 1950) that remained in Brookline after the firm's donation to the Library of Congress.

Graduate student Paul Lanning and Professor Wayne Wilkerson display a map that is being made accessible on the Mississippi State University website.

TREASURE HUNT

MSU Researchers Use General Land Office Records to Enhance Identification of Cultural Landscapes in Northern Mississippi

Records of identified townships in Mississippi were digitized and included on the website.

In the years immediately following Mississippi's 1817 statehood, the federal government dispatched surveyors to provide detailed maps of what formerly had been Native American territories. Under the direction of Mississippi State University landscape architecture assistant professors G. Wayne Wilkerson and Robert F. Brzuszek, those official records are being collected into a digital database.

"We are converting thousands of records that we will make accessible on the World Wide Web," Wilkerson said. "As the first published research on one of Mississippi's earliest vegetation and cultural surveys, it will be a valuable tool for archeologists, natural resource managers and historians."

Brzuszek said most of Mississippi's land plat records were created 1832-40 by surveyors hired by the then-General Land Office, now the Bureau of Land Management.

"The records were produced as part of the original land survey of new states and territories in the early 19th century," he said. "They include descriptive surveyor comments of the historic Choctaw and Chickasaw homelands."

The MSU research team, which included graduate student Paul Lanning of Memphis, Tenn., used information provided by Mississippi's secretary of state's office.

Team members examined copies of documents that have been transferred to compact discs. Some have been transcribed into type, while others are in the spidery, very formal handwriting of the period.

In addition to establishing section lines throughout their assigned districts, the early surveyors recorded related information in leather-bound journals, including the location of "witness" trees—semi-permanent landmarks that could help verify a boundary line.

Comparing the project to a "treasure hunt," Wilkerson said the research reveals much about the land and the experiences of the surveyors.

"You get a sense of what they really were going through when they write 'six miles of heavy forests,' or 'bog,'" he said. "For his 1821 notes on the Choctaw Purchase "west of Pearl River," surveyor Gideon Fitz detailed the exact locations of persimmon, chestnut and beech trees on a particular section. 'good bottom land' and 'poor pine' were among descriptive phrases he used."

The MSU researchers are mapping the historic markers using geographic information systems software. With that information, they then can develop easily understood illustrations of what Mississippi's vegetative cover might have looked like at the time of statehood.

As his research team continues to move historical data to the Web, Wilkerson says he is seeing potential benefits beyond the preservation field.

"We are excited about the research potential found in this rich primary data set, not only for landscape architects but also for planners, archeologists, and forest managers," Wilkerson said. "NCPTT's support was vital to this important research. We hope that this effort can be expanded to the remainder of Mississippi.

HISTORIC NO-WAX FLOORS?

NCPTT Partners with GSA to Study Alternative Treatments for Terrazzo Flooring

NCPTT Researcher Eric Broaddus uses a glossmeter to measure the surface shine of a terrazzo sample that has been vitrified.

Learn More at the Association for Preservation Technology Meeting

September 13-16
Atlanta, Ga.
www.apti.org

Dr. Tye Botting, NCPTT researcher, will present the findings of this study.

No, we're not talking about ancient linoleum. But even for historic masonry flooring, it turns out that there are some interesting alternatives to the usual waxing and stripping cycles commonly used today.

Government buildings from the early 1900's are already becoming recognized for their historic importance. These buildings often have unique aspects of construction requiring special means of preservation. Recognizing the extensive usage of terrazzo flooring in buildings of this time period, the General Services Administration (GSA) has partnered with NCPTT to study the suitability of vitrification as an alternative floor treatment.

According to Melissa Schmidt, historic preservation specialist at GSA, the study outcome will guide GSA preservation policy both regionally and nationally, and will potentially set an industry-wide standard for preservation policy on the vitrification process.

"Previously, historic terrazzo floors have traditionally undergone repeated cycles of stripping, waxing, and buffing," Schmidt said. "Many of these floors are showing serious signs of wear and the question of alternative treatments has come up once again."

Vitrification is an alternative method using a chemical buffing technique to change the character of the top microlayer to make it harder, stronger, and more resistant to water damage. However, there have been questions about the suitability of this kind of treatment for historic terrazzo flooring. Schmidt says they are interested in this method, but has three main concerns regarding vitrification as a treatment for historic terrazzo.

"The first area of concern is whether the vitrification treatment is truly reversible or not," she said. "Good conservation practices require reversibility so that any needed future treatments might be applied without complication. Another concern is that vitrification may affect the ability of moisture to move through the terrazzo. The final concern is that the mirror-like appearance of vitrified terrazzo might not be appropriate for a historic floor."

NCPTT and GSA designed and implemented a comparative study to objectively determine the actual impact of these issues. The research compared terrazzo patterned after flooring in the Milwaukee Federal Building but with three different treatments: raw (sealed), waxed, and vitrified. The study examined physical characteristics, water transport characteristics, glossiness and surface chemistry of the sample types.

NCPTT researchers have discovered that compared to standard wax, vitrification allows for somewhat greater moisture transport through the terrazzo, that color saturation does increase, and that surface chemistry changes permanently only for the top microlayer. Researchers also determined vitrification increases terrazzo's resistance to surface impact and that it produces a surface at the upper limit of both allowable glossiness and slip by government standards.

NCPTT CEMETERY INITIATIVE

Jason Church, NCPTT materials conservator, demonstrates the proper use of epoxies to members of the Monument Builders of North America.

CMC 2006 Workshop Sept. 26-28 $695 per person

Silver Terrace Cemetery
Virginia City Nevada

For More Information or to register, visit:
www.ncptt.nps.gov/cemetery

Workshop is limited to 32 participants.

The workshop will be a combination of lecture, demonstration, and hands-on training in round-robin format

National Demand

Positive word of the American Cemetery workshop quickly spread, igniting demand for similar training in other regions of the country. In 2004, NCPTT partnered with the Historic Congressional Cemetery Association in Washington D.C. to develop its Mid-Atlantic Regional Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop. In addition to the regular course itinerary, the specialty focus of the workshop was the restoration of brick burial vaults, which are common to the Congressional Cemetery. The workshop, which attracted 25 participants from 13 states and Scotland, was set up in a round-robin style to maximize hands-on experience.

In 2005, NCPTT partnered with the NPS Midwest Regional Office, the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, and the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association to hold a Midwest Regional Workshop at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha that focused on the conservation of metal work such as cast iron and bronze. Thirty participants from 13 states and Canada attended this intensive hands-on training. This new format separated the attendees into smaller groups for two days of hands-on round robin field training and a half-day of classroom lecture.

Advanced Techniques

NCPTT's first Advanced Cemetery Conservation Techniques Workshop was held for the first time July 10-14 at Natchitoches' American Cemetery as part of NCPTT's Summer Institute. The purpose of this workshop was to allow participants to take the skills already learned in the three day workshop and build upon them by working through complex conservation issues with a professional conservator. Historic brick work and the use of lime mortars were a new focus of this workshop as the participants reconstructed and restored arched brick burial box vaults. In addition to the numerous skills already covered in the previous workshops, historic limewash used as a protective coating was discussed and demonstrated.

CMC Basics

The popularity of the CMC workshops and continuing requests from the public led to the development of NCPTT's Cemetery Monument Conservation Basics Workshop. The goal of this workshop is to give the participants who care about America's history the knowledge to help preserve it for the next generation.

This day long course was designed for genealogists, church sextons, small cemetery owners and the general public. The course starts with an indoor lecture on the importance and proper methods of cemetery care and maintenance. The lecture is followed by an interactive monument cleaning demonstration.

The first CMC Basics Workshop was held in June 2005 and drew capacity crowds thanks to sponsorship by the Vernon Parish Tourism Commission in Leesville, La. A second workshop was held in March at the Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City with the sponsorship of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. With the help of additional sponsors, these new basics workshops will be an ongoing series to help nonprofessional audiences.

In addition to the formal teaching

NCPTT CEMETERY INITIATIVE

CMC instructors Irving Slavid and Karl Munson prepare a monument for repair.

Visit Our Website
www.ncptt.nps.gov/cemetery

For more information on NCPTT's Cemetery Conservation Initiative

opportunities of the CMC Workshop series, NCPTT staff also reach out to groups with specific interests through public lectures and demonstrations. In the past year, NCPTT staff members have given talks to numerous organizations, including the Mid-America Monument Builders Association, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Society, and the Central Louisiana Archaeology Society.

Partnering with Monument Builders

One organization that has continually fostered the cause of cemetery preservation is the Monument Builders of North America (MBNA). In 2004, MBNA invited NCPTT to present a lecture on cemetery preservation concepts at their national convention in Galveston. This lecture was followed in 2005 by a presentation on cemetery conservation at the national convention in Memphis. NCPTT has since held a one-day field class on historically sensitive cleaning and repair methods for a large group of monument builders at the 2006 MBNA Centennial Convention in Savannah, Ga.

Heritage Education

NCPTT's Heritage Education program was created to instill stewardship in K-12 students while enhancing education and creating a national model for heritage education. In 2004 and 2005, the program held a series of workshops around Louisiana to teach educators how to use cemeteries to teach cultural heritage in a standardized testing environment. NCPTT additionally partnered with the Natchitoches Parish School Board and the Natchitoches Historic Foundation in a Louisiana state education grant to incorporate cemeteries into the learning experience. NCPTT Heritage Education also works on a grass roots effort to teach children the importance of and the proper respect for cemeteries by giving lectures and guided tours of American Cemetery.

Department of Veterans Affairs

The Materials Research staff at NCPTT regularly answer questions from cemetery enthusiasts, professional conservators and government agencies. One such discussion led to ongoing research with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) in which NCPTT is testing commercially available cleaners in five national cemeteries to evaluate their long term effects and ability to retard biological growth on marble.

The first phase of the two-year DVA study included taking biological swabs from select markers in each of the targeted cemetery. These tests rank the selected cleaners based on their ability to remove biological growth and soiling from headstones in different regions of the country. Phase one testing will help determine if the selected cleaners had any negative effects physically or chemically on the marble itself.

The Future

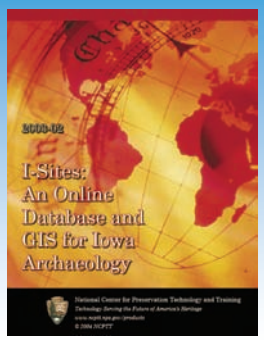
Future projects focusing on cemetery preservation will include a series of instructional videos on various topics such as cleaning techniques, basic resetting and adhesive repairs. The videos will be available for free download from the NCPTT website with simple illustrated instructional sheets for the public.

The Cane River National Heritage Area GIS system is being used to document current and past geography in the Cane River region of Louisiana. The system will preserve the memory of structures such as the Carnahan Store in Cloutierville, La., which burned in 2004. (Photo by Jack Boucher, NPS)

LIVING LABORATORY

J.C. Rivers, MAHR student, and Rolanda Teal, CRNHA program manager, study maps of the Cane River region during NCPTT's Summer Institute program "Prospection in Depth" that was held in June.

Download Related Research @ www.ncptt.nps.gov



Imagine an emergency coordinator being able to better calculate the response time in advance if a natural disaster threatened. Or imagine being able to view how a town has evolved within the last century with one click of a mouse.

A partnership between NCPTT and the Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA) is making these scenarios possible by bringing a Geographic Information System (GIS) to northwest Louisiana where both organizations are headquartered.

GIS is a collection of computer hardware, software and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. The system is used in many agencies and organizations and companies.

CRNHA's GIS was created in 2004 to store area maps, past and present. NCPTT houses and maintains the system, which allows users to identify and match property locations and dimensions from any point in the property's documented history.

Rolonda Teal, program manager at the CRNHA, believes the system is crucial to understanding and making informed decisions about preservation issues as well as understanding local culture.

"GIS allows us to take information from historical documents and place them in a data set," Teal said. "It is being used to identify 'places of memory,' locations that may no longer exist, yet are very much alive in the minds of people who lived near or frequented those areas."

Nancy Morgan, CRNHA executive director, views the GIS as an important tool for the preservation of the rural areas along Cane River. "We look forward to using the GIS for land use planning as well as a tool to help preserve a sense of place in the rural areas of the Cane River region," Morgan said. "This technology is an important asset to document the significant history of the region since its economy relies on heritage tourism."

With GIS, users can link information to location data, such as people to addresses, buildings to tax parcels or streets within a network. Additionally, users could layer the information based on the information they are seeking.

"As the National Park Service's center for advancing the use of technology in preservation, NCPTT is excited about the potential of this project," Kirk Cordell, NCPTT executive director, said. "The system will provide a powerful tool for our researchers and the preservation professionals who attend our training courses."

GIS will also provide educational opportunities for students at Northwestern State University of Louisiana's Master's of Heritage Resources Program (MAHR), which was recently awarded a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents. The grant will build a GIS facility on the campus that will facilitate joint research projects between both GIS programs. ElizaBeth Guin, MAHR program coordinator, says both systems working cooperatively will produce far-reaching benefits.

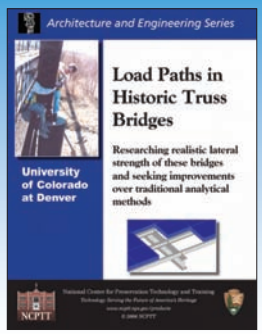
"Our students will have the advantage of working with technologies on a scale not available in many graduate preservation programs," Guin said. "Our combined efforts will not only contribute to the resources and capabilities of the Cane River Region but the national preservation dialog as well."

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE

Researchers seek to aid preservation efforts for historic iron and steel truss bridges

University of Colorado at Denver civil engineering students Sam Brown and Chris Kline attach strain gauges to the San Miguel Bridge near Uravan, Colorado. The bridge was built in 1886.

Download This Research @ www.ncptt.nps.gov



Preservation opportunities are growing as the nation's truss bridges age. Some are being converted for pedestrian use, permitting ready public access to historic structures, which adds the advantage of providing incentives for continued maintenance. Unfortunately, the engineer for today's historic bridge preservation project often finds the structure has insufficient lateral strength to satisfy modern requirements.

With support from a PTT Grant, a team of four structural engineering graduate students led by Kevin Rens at the University of Colorado at Denver and Fred Rutz of J.R. Harris & Company, has been researching realistic lateral strength of historic truss bridges, seeking improvements over traditional analytical methods.

According to Rens, the focus of research at the University of Colorado at Denver has been on the stiffening effect of decks in historic truss bridges.

"The project's overall purpose is to aid in preservation efforts for historic iron and steel truss bridges," he said. "However, the specific goal of this research is to demonstrate a new methodology to account for increased strength provided by non-traditional—but real—load paths."

Rutz initiated the research as a graduate student at the University of Colorado with Rens serving as his adviser. When Rutz finished his thesis in 2004, his literature review showed that century-old bridges were being demolished and replaced.

"In Colorado, there were only a dozen or so historic bridges left and two of those were scheduled for replacement," Rens said. "Fred and I tried to make a difference by investigating five of those bridges to prove that they were stronger than conventional analysis indicated."

The research team investigated the problem using software tools that are readily available to practicing engineers. First analytical models using the traditional "skeleton" frame were developed to study the lateral response for each of five real bridges.

Then the same models were modified to include the stiffening effect of their respective decks and analyzed again. They confirmed that inclusion of stiffening elements such as decks into structural analysis models can aid engineers in historic bridge preservation efforts and reduce rehabilitation costs.

Civil engineering graduate students Veronica Jacobson, Shohreh Hamedian, Kazwan Elias, and Bill Swigert went into the field and prepared the bridges for study under actual wind conditions to verify their analytical findings.

The researcher team installed strain transducers and wind monitoring instruments at each bridge. Their field studies took them to bridge sites from the high plains of eastern Colorado to the Rocky Mountains to western canyons. Modern instrumentation, data acquisition and telemetry equipment were also used in the study.

Further results of this research will be published in each student's thesis work. Results have been accepted in several publications, including the *Journal of Performance of Constructed Facilities* and the *Journal of Preservation Technology*.

SETTING HISTORIC STANDARDS

AIC Seeks to Establish Standards for the Conservation of New Media Technologies

AIC is working to help archivists understand the proliferation of digital media formats and discover which methods will stand the test of time.

View the abstracts and papers on the electronic media session at
http://aic.stanford.edu/sg/emg

The burgeoning field of electronic media preservation threatens to outpace the research available to prove its reliability in many cases. To address this issue, NCPTT awarded a grant to the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) to convene leaders in the field to share their experiences. Results of the special session demonstrating electronic media's growing role in preservation are now available on the Web.

The website covers a wide spectrum of concerns ranging from the philosophical and theoretical to the problems of actual real-world implementation. A broad approach was needed to properly address the diverse challenges inherent to the emerging field of electronic media in preservation according to Hannah Frost, media preservation librarian at Stanford University Libraries, and chair of the special session.

"By gathering a group of professionals from across the cultural heritage spectrum who are working on electronic media preservation projects, one recognizes that electronic media preservation is a praxis that is highly-specialized but nonetheless one that is not limited to any one field," Frost said. "Conservators must engage with information technologists, computer scientists, audio-visual engineers, educators, artists, curators, librarians and archivists who are also pursuing this work as we establish our role and voice in the effort to preserve media and digital information."

The website details abstracts and papers of the topics covered at the AIC session. Among the topics covered are recording, documentation and database issues, which includes techniques for audio reconstruction of music from phonograph plates and tubes by digital processing of microscopic digital imaging of the surfaces. Additionally, issues in digital video preservation worthiness are covered as most digital video storage methods allow for serious degradation after successive conversions or copies.

The Electronic Media Group (EMG), a specialty group of AIC, organized the session. EMG meets annually to share information on the preservation of electronic-based cultural materials and tools of their creation, as well as to provide a means for conservators and related professionals to develop and maintain knowledge of relevant new media and emerging technologies.

Frost believes the PTTGrants program was well-suited as a source of support for the program because the two organizations share a common goal: to disseminate information about recent conservation research.

"EMG aims to stimulate discussion and advance methodologies for preserving electronic media within the conservation field—an area that is gaining both in need by collections and in interest by collection caretakers," she said. "This is a crucial time for developing best practices. We have much to learn from the pioneers working in the field, and they are equally eager to share their experiences and research results."

2006 Summer Institute

NCPTT held its third Summer Institute in June and July featuring intensive hands-on preservation training in the fields of architecture, archeology and advanced cemetery conservation. Engineering the Past for the Future: A Practical Approach to Engineering for Older and Historic Buildings was held June 6-16. Prospection in Depth: Developing Advanced GPS, GIS and Geophysical Skills through Plantation Archeology was held June 6-23. The Advanced Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop was held July 10-14. For detailed information on these programs and future training opportunities, visit www.ncptt.nps.gov.

NOTESWORTHY

What's News in the World of Preservation Technology

Limewash Study

NCPTT has completed its study on the durability of traditional and modified limewashes. The project addresses needs of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park. The study ranked the durability of limewashes based on adhesion, abrasion resistance, and artificial weathering. Researchers tested 13 combinations that were applied in three coats to weathered wood, rough-sawn wood, handmade and modern brick, and epoxy wood filler. NCPTT presented the results at the 2006 Traditional Building Conference.

Preservation Celebration

In recognition of May as Preservation Month, NCPTT presented its first "Preservation Celebration" community fair. The come-and-go event was held at Lee H. Nelson Hall and was free to the public. NCPTT staff and community partners presented interactive demonstrations of preservation techniques and concepts of significance in the local area. These included basic cemetery conservation, bousillage construction, local archeological landscapes and limewash finishes. NCPTT's preservation partners presented exhibits at Nelson Hall as well.

Jackson Barracks Excavation

David Morgan, NCPTT archeology and collections chief, presented a paper at the Society of American Archeologists (SAA) annual meeting on burials excavated from Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, with emphasis on issues of cultural affiliation. Morgan also co-chaired the Archaeological Preservation Technology Research Consortium meeting held in advance of the SAA meeting. Two new work tasks were identified for the consortium. The first is to convene a policy/theory level symposium at the 2007 SAA meeting in Texas. The second is to produce a set of standards and protocols for terrestrial geophysical prospection techniques.

NCPTT
National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

NCPTT Executive Director
Kirk A. Cordell

Editor
Jeff Guin

NCPTT Notes is published by the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

The purpose of this publication is to convey NCPTT's Mission, which is to advance the use of science and technology in the field of historic preservation including archeology, architecture, landscape architecture and materials conservation. The Center accomplishes its mission through training, education, research, technology transfer and partnerships.

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NCPTT NOTES

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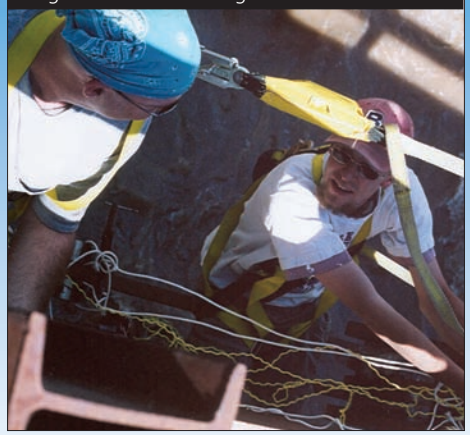
Virginia City, Nev., will be the setting for NCPTT's next CMC workshop Sept. 26-28.



Researchers seek to aid preservation efforts for historic iron and steel truss bridges.

NCPTT Partners with GSA to Study Alternative Treatments for Terrazzo Flooring.

PLUS** • A LIVING LABORATORY • SETTING HISTORIC STANDARDS • TREASURE HUNT • **AND MUCH MORE